



MICHIGAN HEALTH & HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Advocating for hospitals and the patients they serve

TO: Members of the House Commerce Committee
FROM: David Finkbeiner *DF* Vice President, Advocacy
DATE: June 12, 2007
SUBJECT: House Bill 4163 – Smoke-free Air Legislation
MHA Position: **SUPPORT**


The Michigan Health & Hospital Association supports House Bill 4163, sponsored by Rep. Brenda Clack, would prohibit smoking in any enclosed indoor area serving as the work area for one or more persons employed by a public or private employer. This legislation also specifically requires all bars and restaurant to be smoke-free as well.

The American Cancer Society reports that secondhand smoke causes heart, lung and cancer diseases and kills over 3,000 people in Michigan each year. A poll reported that 79% of Michigan voters would go to restaurants “more often” or “just as often” if they became smoke free. Another study by the Environmental Protection Agency determined that businesses spend up to \$66 billion annually in direct costs associated with smoking including higher health, life and fire insurance premiums, higher worker absenteeism, lower work productivity and higher workers’ compensation rates.

At least 15 counties in Michigan and over half of the states in this country have enacted some sort of smoking ban at workplaces. Several states have implemented bans in bars and restaurants including New York, Massachusetts, California and Florida. Entire countries such as France, Italy and Ireland have adopted indoor smoking bans nationwide. Studies conducted by the American Heart Association in these states and other countries found that their revenue and jobs actually increased after their smoke-free laws were adopted.

The MHA consistently supports public policy that promotes responsible behavior and improves the health status of Michigan residents. Reducing the population’s exposure to secondhand smoke will save lives and billions of dollars in health care costs. In addition, the MHA believes that a clean indoor air policy will improve the overall health of citizens of Michigan. **We urge you to support HB 4163 and ban smoking in all public places.**

Please contact Chris Mitchell (cmitchell@mha.org) at (517) 703-8622 at the MHA if you have further questions on this issue.


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